

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WINONA**

**DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**MEMORIAL**

**TO**

**WELCOME J. SMITH**

**Welcome J. Smith, better known to his associates and many friends as “Weck Smith”, was born January 17, 1864 in a log cabin near Galesville, Wisconsin and succumbed July 21, 1946 at Winona, Minnesota.**



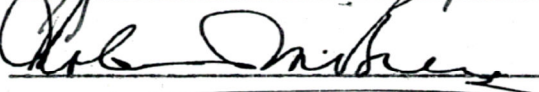
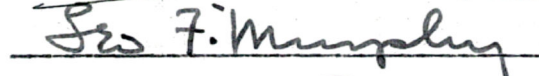
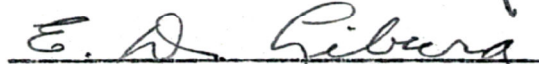
**As a boy Mr. Smith attended the public school at Galesville and later enrolled at the then Galesville University and was a cadet when the school had a military department. At the age of nineteen he became a rural school teacher in North Bend, Wisconsin and served there for a period of two years. After his school-mastership he entered the law school of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and was graduated in the year 1887. He then came to Winona, Minnesota to practice law, where he was so engaged for a period of approximately fifty-two years.**

**Surviving him are his wife, the former Ida Gerlicher, a daughter Mrs. W. J. Hohaus, a granddaughter Mrs. Bettie Hunter, and a great-granddaughter Mary Louise Hunter.**

**Mr. Smith had a large and varied friendship, and was a man who was admired by the so-called common and poor people for whom he very often performed services without charging a fee. He was a companionable, conscientious, lovable person, faithful to every trust, and always willingly counselled and guided the**

younger members of his profession. His loss will be felt for many years by the citizens of this community and his host of friends in the State of Wisconsin.

Dated October 17, 1946

  
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Chairman.

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## Appendix

The following profile of Smith appeared in a chapter titled “Biographical Profiles” in the first volume of “The History of Winona County, Minnesota” edited by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge and published in 1913:

Welcome J. Smith, attorney-at-law, of the firm of Tawney, Smith & Tawney, was born in Galesville, Trempealeau county, Wis., January 17, 1864, son of George H. and Caroline C. (Johnson) Smith, natives of New York state, who, in an early day, settled in Trempealeau county on a farm, the father dying in 1892 and the mother in 1899. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the graded and high schools of his native place, after which he entered Galesville University, in the same town. From 1881 to 1882 he was a cadet at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. After that he again attended school at the Galesville University. Thus equipped he taught school two winters. Then he was a bookkeeper

for a while. Subsequently he entered the University at Ann Arbor, Mich., and was graduated from the law department of that institution in 1887. Thus prepared, he came to Winona, and associated himself with the law firm of Tawney & Randall, consisting of James A. Tawney and Frank L. Randall. In 1889 Mr. Randall retired from the firm, and James A. Tawney continued the practice alone until 1890, when the present firm of Tawney, Smith & Tawney was formed. Mr. Smith has taken an active part in the affairs of the community. A Democrat in politics, he served as municipal judge for four years dating from 1901. He has been a director the Park Brewing Company since its organization, and for many years has been a stockholder in what is now the Deposit Bank of Winona. Socially he has allied himself with the Arlington Club. In Masonic circles he is well liked, and is an officer in the Scottish Rites bodies, as well as a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter. The subject of this sketch was married at Winona, June 11, 1890, to Ida Gerlicher, and they have one daughter, Esther L., who graduated from the Winona high school and is now studying music at Ann Arbor, Mich.<sup>1</sup>

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The *Winona Republican-Herald* reported his death on Monday, July 22, 1946:

**W. J. Smith, 82,  
Lawyer Here 52 Years,  
Succumbs**

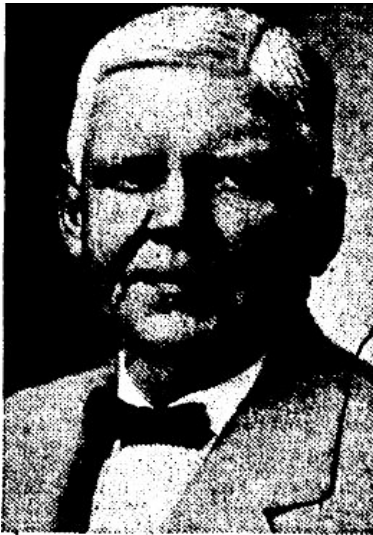
Welcome J. Smith, 82, 76 East Wabasha street, veteran Winona attorney who was retired from active practice, died at 12:20 p. m. Sunday at the Winona General hospital after an illness of several months. A severe back injury suffered in a fall recently hastened his death. Mr. Smith was born January 17, 1864, in a log cabin near Galesville, the son of a pioneer Galesville couple, George H. and

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<sup>1</sup> This sketch can be found in "Bench and Bar of Winona County" written by Judge Arthur Snow and posted in in the "Winona County" category in the archives of the MLHP.

Carrie (Johnston) Smith. He studied at Galesville college when it was known as Galesville university, and was graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree of LL.B. in 1887. Ha came at once to Winona and became clerk in the law office of Tawney & Randall. When Mr. Tawney was elected to Congress in 1890, Mr. Smith became a member of the firm. He remained a member of the firm until his retirement from active practice January 17, 1940. Mr. Smith was municipal judge of Winona from 1901 to 1905 and practiced law for 53 years.

He married Miss Ida Gerlicher in 1890. Mr. Smith was a 33rd degree Mason and



Mr. Smith

was a member of Winona lodge No. 18, A. F. & A. M.; Winona chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Winona. He was a member of the Winona County Bar association, of the Arlington club and St. Paul's Episcopal church and was a director of the Fidelity Building & Loan association. He had lived in Winona 57 years.

Survivors are his wife; one daughter, Mrs. W. J. Hohaus; one granddaughter, Mrs. Bettie Hunter, and one great-granddaughter, Mary Louise Hunter, all of Winona.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday at St. Paul's Episcopal church, the Rev. Russell K. Johnson officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery. Friends are requested to send no flowers. Pallbearers will be M. A. Laberee, E. D. Libera, J. R. Chappell, W. L. Baldwin, H. L. Harrington and John Druey.

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